

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05964 082157Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 JUSE-00  
TRSE-00 /075 W  
-----004232 082201Z /14

O R 082133Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 119  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5964

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAG: PGOV, SHUM, CI  
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: CONTINUED MEDIA ATTENTION

REF: SANTIAGO 5920 AND PREVIOUS

1. DISPLACED AS THE MAIN ITEM OF NEWS BY THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI, LETELIER CASE COVERAGE NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED ALTHOUGH IN A REDUCED FASHION IN THE AUGUST 8 NEWSPAPERS. "EL MERCURIO" DEVOTES ITS LEAD EDITORIAL TO THE ATTACKS OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND OTHERS ON CHILE BUT WITH NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE LETELIER CASE. THERE IS ALSO AN ARTICLE ON PLEA BARGAINING IN THE US LEGAL SYSTEM, WRITTEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT THAT THIS PRACTICE IS SLIGHTLY IMMORAL.

2. THE PRESS HAS USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY SAYING THAT HE WILL SOON TRAVEL TO THE US AGAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTRA-DITION REQUESTS AND THAT THESE ARE LIKELY TO ARRIVE HERE THE FINAL DAYS OF THE MONTH. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT THAT  
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SERGIO MIRANDA CARRINGTON, THE LAWYER FOR CONTRERAS, AND POSSIBLY ESPINOZA, IS LEAVING FOR THE US TODAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEFENSE OF HIS CLIENTS.

3. THE TEN LAWYERS WHO BROUGHT A SUIT ("QUERELLA") AGAINST CONTRERAS IN LOCAL COURTS ON BEHALF OF THE RELATIVES OF 69 MISSING PERSONS HAVE ASKED THE JUDGE TO LOOK INTO THE FACTS

OF THE CHARGES AGAINST CONTRERAS AT THE SAME TIME SHE ATTEMPTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS JURISDICTION IN THE SUIT. THE JUDGE REPORTEDLY HAS SENT A REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO BE INFORMED WHETHER CONTRERAS IS OR WAS A MILITARY OFFICER. WHEN SHE IS TOLD FORMALLY THAT HE WAS, SHE WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO TRANSFER JURISDICTION FOR THE SUIT TO THE MILITARY COURTS. THE LAWYERS AND RELATIVES OF THE MISSING WANT THE JUDGE TO START SOME SERIOUS INVESTIGATION BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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